Amendments To The Specification

Please delete in the Specification page 2, lines 3-12:

~~With the default DCC bandwidth, a disadvantage is that only D1-D3 bytes are used to transmit data between network elements. When there are other unused D bytes, DCC bandwidth resource can not be utilized effectively, which affects the communication efficiency between the network elements.~~

~~Further, each network element is configured with DCC bandwidth manually and a communication network usually includes decades or hundreds of network elements, therefore disadvantages include large manpower cost, and easily occurred errors during the manual configuration, which result in large maintenance cost. Besides, if the DCC bandwidth of a certain network element changes, it is possible to re-configure DCC bandwidth of the other network elements.~~

Please replace paragraph [0011] in the Specification page 3, lines 3-8 with the following amended paragraph:

after receiving the DCC negotiation message, the network element at the receiving end comparing the overhead bytes contained in the DCC negotiation message with overhead bytes available to the network element at the receiving end, to obtain an intersection, which is overhead bytes, for constructing a DCC, available to both the network elements, wherein the overhead bytes as bandwidth of the channel are used to perform a second DCC configuration in the same order, so as to establish the DCC~~,~~;

Please delete in the Specification page 3, line 9 through page 4, line17:

~~sending a DCC connection command from the two network elements to the opposite network element via the new DCC respectively;~~

~~after receiving the DCC connection command, sending a DCC connection acknowledgement command from the two network elements to the opposite network element respectively;~~

~~accomplishing establishment of the DCC after the two network elements receive the DCC connection acknowledgement commands.~~

~~The network elements return to the default DCC configuration state if the configured timer is expired at any step during the second DCC establishment process.~~

~~Each DCC of the network elements determines whether to perform the DCC bandwidth negotiation in accordance with the requirements of users.~~

~~Both of the network elements at the transmitting and receiving ends of the DCC return to the default DCC configuration state if the preconfigured connected DCCs fails.~~

~~Both of the two network elements perform the first DCC configuration by using one or more unused overhead bytes in a section overhead.~~

~~The one or more unused overhead bytes in the section overhead includes: D bytes and other unused section overhead bytes.~~

~~The DCC negotiation message includes: overhead bytes and the order of the overhead bytes available to the transmitting end of DCC of the current network element.~~

~~The D bytes are in an order from D1 to D12.~~

~~During the second DCC configuration, the default DCC constructed by the default section overhead bytes is reserved, and the new DCC is constructed by using the newly added section overhead bytes.~~

~~The SDH/SONET section overhead bytes for constructing the DCC are overhead bytes selected from a group consisting of D1-D12 bytes and other unused section overhead bytes, wherein the section overhead bytes used in the network elements at both ends of the DCC are consistent with each other.~~

~~The order of the overhead bytes constructing the DCC is variable, but it is consistent between the two ends of the DCC channel.~~

~~The advantageous effect of embodiments of the present invention is that the method for negotiating bandwidth of a data communication channel automatically makes the DCC bandwidth remain always consistent to ensure correct transmission of OAM&P information between network elements. The method enables automatic establishment of a DCC with broadest bandwidth between two network elements connected with each other, which utilizes overhead resource of SDH/SONET signals effectively. The method also reduces congestion of TMN management information due to narrow DCC bandwidth resulted from lack of effective utilization of D-byte overhead resource, and decreases the cost of management and maintenance of TMN effectively.~~

Please replace paragraph [0053] in the Specification page 7, lines 17-24 with the following amended paragraph:

as shown in FIG.4, the network element A sends DCC bandwidth negotiation message to the network element B via the default DCC of optical fiber F1, and the network element B sends DCC bandwidth negotiation message to the network element A via the default DCC of optical fiber F2. The bandwidth negotiation message, as shown in FIG.4, can be represented in a 16-bit length data structure (the structure depends on

practical requirements), wherein the reserved bytes can be used to indicate unused bytes as required. The network elements A and B initiate a timer for receiving the DCC ~~bandwidth~~ negotiation acknowledgement commands respectively;